

TESTIMONY of EILEEN M. HEALY
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
SB 15 AND HB 5042

My name is Eileen M. Healy and I am registered voter in Woodbury. I'm the Executive Director of Independence Northwest (IN), the independent living center serving the northwest corner of Connecticut. We are a non-residential, disability advocacy and resource center, offering services and supports to people with all types of disabilities and of all ages. Most of the people we work with are on Medicaid and have multiple medical needs. Most have enormous difficulty finding a Medicaid provider for dental and mental health services, and inadequate funding for personal care assistance and home health services.

Independence Northwest **objects** to the entire Primary Care Roadmap and Cost Growth Caps because of its harmful impact on people with disabilities, elders and people in the Black, Brown, Asian and Indigenous communities.

The Roadmap states it will apply to all payers, but the state can only control Medicaid; therefore, Medicaid enrollees will most likely be the Roadmap's experiment group. The experiment will be conducted on patients with the least resources and the least ability to choose other medical providers who donot participate in the experiment. This methodology may be voluntary to providers but it won't be for consumers of medical services.

The process to develop the Roadmap was driven by primary care physician groups interested in maximizing their revenue, and they did not seek or accept the offer of input from independent consumers including people with disabilities.

The Roadmap pushes medical practices into primary care capitation, a failed payment model, with serious risks of under-service to people with disabilities and it could worsen CT's overall health disparities. Risk-adjusting per member per month payments will not solve the problem, and will incentivize providers to take sicker patients to get the higher payment but then send member out to specialists, for whom getting appointments is already a problem. Proposed quality measures are too weak to detect, let alone prevent, the broad under-service incentivized by capitation.

"Nothing About Us, Without Us" is a well-known and important phrase in the disability community. The Primary Care Roadmap has been developed without the input of Medicaid enrollees - people with disabilities and others – the very people that will be most negatively impacted by its implementation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted By:



Eileen M. Healy